

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 21 and 22 have been amended.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"). The RCE filing fee is being submitted herewith by Electronic Funds Transfer. Please charge any other fees for entry of this Amendment and RCE to our deposit account no. 03-3415.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3, 11 and 13 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Suga, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,313,875) patent. Applicant's claims 2, 12, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Suga, et al. patent. Applicant's claims 4-6, 9-10, 14-16 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Suga, et al. patent in view of the Enright, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,813) patent and claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Suga, et al. patent in view of the Enright, et al. patent, further in view of the Hatanaka (U.S. Pat. No. 6,438,320) patent. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22, and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 has been amended to recite an image pickup apparatus comprising an image pickup device, a recording device that records image data photographed by the image pickup device, a display device that displays the image data recorded by the recording device, a communication device that is connectable to a plurality of image pickup apparatuses, for transmitting and receiving the recorded image data with a predetermined unique information for identifying the image pickup apparatus which records the recorded image data, and a control device that provides control to cause the display device to display the

image data received by the communication device from respective ones of the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and the image data recorded by the recording device on a common window in a display screen on the display device, wherein the control device provides control to cause the display device to display on the common window the image data received by the communication device from respective ones of the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and image data recorded by the recording device in different display configuration, respectively, according to the predetermined unique information, in a manner such that the image data received by the communication device from respective ones of the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and the image data recorded by the recording device can be distinguished from one another. Applicant's independent claims 11, 21 and 22 have been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, the cited Suga, et al. patent does not teach or suggest an image pickup apparatus that includes a communication device that is connectable to a plurality of image pickup apparatuses, for transmitting and receiving the recorded image data with a predetermined unique information for identifying the image pickup apparatus which records the recorded image data. The cited references also fail to teach or suggest displaying the image data received by the communication device and the image data recorded by the recording device on a common window in a display screen on the display device, wherein the display device is caused to display on the common window the image data received by the communication device and the image data recorded by the recording device in different display configuration, respectively, according to the predetermined unique information, in a manner such that the image data received by the communication device and the image data recorded by the recording device can be distinguished from one another.

In particular, the Suga, et al. patent discloses a system including a plurality of terminals (A, B, C), each of the terminals including a camera (A-1, B-1, C-1) for photographing a person's face and a camera (A-2, B-2, C-2) for photographing printed matter or objects, wherein the terminals are connected to a network (16) and each terminal displays images photographed by each camera in a corresponding display window allocated to the camera. Col. 4, lines 11-46; Col. 5, lines 59-62. The Suga, et al. patent further discloses that the terminal (A) receives image data captured by another terminal (B, C) from the network (16) (Col. 5, lines 59-62; FIG. 2), and that when image data from other terminals (B, C) is displayed on the terminal's display device, the title bar (315) of each display window identifies the name of the camera. Col. 7, lines 13-19; FIG. 5. Suga, et al. also discloses that in a multimedia teleconference, the server managing the conferencing system obtains controllable items and parameters from each camera connected to each terminal and forms a table with specification and initial status information of the cameras, which is used for controlling the display windows, each of which corresponding to one of the cameras, displayed on each terminal's display. See, Col. 7, lines 35-48.

The Suga, et al. patent, however, makes no mention of the terminal transmitting and receiving, using a communication device, recorded image data with predetermined unique information for identifying the image pickup apparatus which records the recorded image data. Rather, Suga, et al. only teaches displaying the display window and camera control menu for each camera on each terminal display screen on the basis of the specification and status information stored in the table on the server, and that the terminal transmits and receives recorded image data and displays the recorded image data in the window allocated to the image pickup apparatus that recorded the image data. However, Suga, et al. is completely silent as to

the recorded image data being transmitted with any unique information identifying the image pickup apparatus or as to the recorded image data including any unique information that identifies the image pickup apparatus.

Moreover, the Suga, et al. patent does not teach or suggest displaying image data received by the communication device from the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and image data recorded by the recording unit on a common window in a display screen on the display device. Instead, in Suga, et al., each of the image pickup apparatuses is allocated a separate window so that the image data recorded by the terminal's image pickup apparatus and image data received by the terminal from other terminals' image pickup apparatuses are displayed on separate windows on the display screen that correspond to each of the respective image pickup apparatuses. Moreover, the system in the Suga, et al. patent requires that the image data from each image pickup apparatus is displayed in a separate and distinct window because each of the windows corresponding to an image pickup apparatus includes a title bar identifying the image pickup apparatus to which it is allocated and includes a control menu for controlling the specific image pickup apparatus to which the window is allocated. Accordingly, in Suga, et al. the image data from the terminal's own image pickup apparatus and the image data received by the terminal through the communication device are not displayed on a common window in the display screen, and instead, are displayed in separate, distinct and individually controlled windows in the display screen.

Furthermore, the Suga, et al. patent fails to teach or suggest controlling the display device to display on the common window the image data received by the communication device and the image data recorded by the recording device in different display configuration, respectively, according to the predetermined unique information, in a manner such that the

image data received by the communication device from the respective ones of the plurality of the image pickup apparatuses and the image data recorded by the recording device can be distinguished from one another. The Examiner has argued that the Suga, et al. patent discloses in FIG. 1, the image pickup apparatus, Station A, placing image data from its own recording device on the left side of the screen, and placing the image data received from other devices towards the center and the right of the screen, and that the side of the screen, or the configuration of the placement for image data from its own recording device and from other devices is therefore different such that it is easily distinguishable from each other. However, the different configurations in Suga, et al. that distinguish the image data from the recording device from the image data received by the communication device are the result of placing the image data from the recording device and the image data received from each of the other terminals by the communication device in separate windows and arranging the separate windows at different positions on the screen. There is no mention in Suga, et al. of displaying the image data recorded by the recording device in a different configuration from the image data received by the communication device on a common window. The Suga, et al. patent is also silent as to displaying image data in different display configuration according to the predetermined unique information so as to distinguish the image data recorded by the recording device from the image data received by the communication device, and instead, Suga, et al. only teaches displaying the image data from different image pickup apparatuses in different windows placed at different positions on the screen.

Moreover, as discussed herein above, there is no teaching or suggestion in Suga, et al. of the image data from the recording device and the image data received by the communication device being displayed on a common window and also no teaching of any predetermined

unique information being transmitted or received with the recorded image data. Accordingly, there cannot be any teaching in Suga, et al. of displaying on the common window the image data received by the communication device from respective ones of the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and the image data recorded by the recording device in different display configuration according to the predetermined unique information.

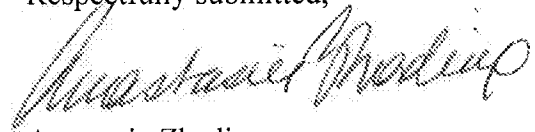
Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22, each of which recites a communication device that is connectable to a plurality of image pickup apparatuses for transmitting and receiving the recorded image data with a predetermined unique information for identifying the image pickup apparatus which records the recorded image data, controlling to cause the display device to display the image data received by the communication device from the respective ones of the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and the image data recorded by the recording device on a common window in a display screen of the display device, wherein the control step comprises providing control to cause the display device to display on the common window the image data received by the communication device from respective ones of the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and the image data recorded by the recording device in different display configuration, respectively, according to the predetermined unique information, in a manner such that the image data received by the communication device from respective ones of the plurality of image pickup apparatuses and the image data recorded by the recording device can be distinguished from one another, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Suga, et al. patent. Moreover, there is nothing added by the Enright, et al. and Hatanaka patents to change this conclusion.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P.C.
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
T (212) 790-9200

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Anastasia Zhadina", written over the typed name.

Anastasia Zhadina
Reg. No. 48,544
Attorney of Record